

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re : Application of Cavalotti et al.
For : **FALSE DRUM WITH A VARIABLE AREA VACUUM-SURFACE**
Serial No. :
Filed : concurrently herewith
Group Art Unit :
Examiner :
Our Docket No. : DN2001169D01

October 31, 2003

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Arlington, Virginia 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the referenced application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-7. Please amend claim 8 as follows:

1. (Cancelled) A method for controlling the amount of perforated surface area on a perforated cylindrical outer surface of a hollow cylindrical drum, through which air can be drawn into the hollow cylindrical drum having an inner surface, to provide a suction adhering surface for holding sheet materials on the outer surface of the drum, the cylindrical drum having a diameter and an axis, and the method characterized by the steps of:

providing two axially movable disc-like baffle plates within the drum, each having a diameter substantially equal to the diameter of the drum; and

varying the axial positions of the baffle plates to control a portion of the perforated surface area through which air can be drawn into the hollow cylindrical drum.

2. (Cancelled) The method of claim 1, further characterized by the step of:
slidably sealing each of the baffle plates against the inner surface of the drum.

3. (Cancelled) The method of claim 1, further characterized by the step of: